NeoPopRealism Journal

In The News Archives. July-August, 2008

August, 2008

Russia's Parliament

Russian parliament voted unanimously Monday to urge the president to recognize the independence of Georgia's two break away regions, stoking further tensions between Moscow and the small Caucasus nation's Western allies. "Russia's historic role of the guarantor of peace in the Caucasus has increased," said Boris Gryzlov, speaker of the lower chamber. "The Caucasus has always been and will remain the zone of Russia's strategic interests."
Reaction from the West was swift. The United States said Russian recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia "would be unacceptable."
The continued presence of Russian troops in Georgia after a lightning war over the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia has sunk relations between Russia and the West to a post-Cold War low. Western nations have accused Russia of reneging on its commitment to withdraw forces from U.S.- allied Georgia.

Obama's Pick

In picking Sen. Joe Biden to be his running mate, Barack Obama sought to shore up his weakness, his inexperience in office and on foreign policy rather than his strength as a new-generation candidate defying political conventions.
Biden is anything but a change agent, having been in office "longer than half of all Americans have been alive." He talks a lot. On the same day he announced his second bid for the presidency, Biden found himself explaining why he had described Obama as "clean."
There's the 2007 ABC interview in which Biden said he would stand by an earlier statement that Obama was not ready to serve as president.
It seems Obama is worried that some voters are starting to agree.

Wiley Publishing: Higher Education

In 1807, Charles Wiley, then 25 years old, opened a small printing shop at 6 Reade Street in lower Manhattan, New York City...
Wiley acquired Interscience Publishers in 1961. Those years also brought another surge in international growth. Subsidiaries were established in London in 1959 (moving to Chichester in 1968); Australia in 1963; India in 1965; and Toronto, Canada in 1968. In subsequent years, Wiley expanded its global operations to Singapore, Japan, and Germany, and set up sales offices on every continent.
For over 200 years, Wiley has grown and evolved, taking pride in its ability to meet the changing needs of its customers. The company's current migration to the digital world is the latest example of this kind of transformation. Given Wiley's solid financial position, experienced leadership team, talented workforce, and proven strategies for generating results, the years ahead promise to bring exciting opportunities for continued growth and prosperity. Wiley is a far cry from Charles Wiley's small printing shop, but the company's commitment to quality and to serving the needs of its customers has not changed since 1807.

Practical Text Mining With Perl by Roger Bilisoly first published by Wiley in August, 2008. What is Text Mining? The text in text mining refers to written language that has some informational content. It is magazine articles, newspaper stories, non-fiction and fiction books, email, online articles and all text. This book has three broad themes: text mining is built upon counting and text pattern matching; language is complex; combining computer and human strenth is a powerful way to study language.
This title is devoted to the fundamentals of text mining using Perl, an open-source programming tool that is freely available via the Internet (www.perl.org). It is a textbook for undergraduate and

graduate courses in text mining and a references for a variety of professionals who are interested in extracting information from text documents.
Roger Bilisoly, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Statistics at Central Connecticut State University.

New York: Bernini and the Birth of Baroque Portrait Sculpture Through October 26 at The Getty Center

Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Italian, 1598–1680) and his contemporaries in Rome transformed the portrait bust into a groundbreaking art form. With dazzling virtuosity, these artists were able to coax the living presence and personality of their sitters—creating a "speaking likeness"—from the intractable medium of stone.
Bernini is frequently credited with inventing Baroque art and, throughout his long life, remained its greatest exponent. Celebrating Baroque sculpture, paintings, and drawings, this major international loan exhibition brings together nearly 60 works from both public and private collections, and is the first important exhibition on Bernini in North America.

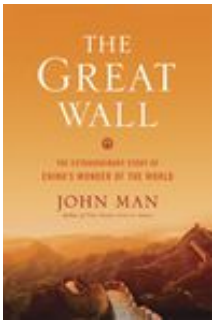
Staten Island (U.S.) Fights '88'

Senator Andrew Lanza,
Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Councilman Michael McMahon and ex-graffiti artists and now owner of NYC's club 'Prime' John Englebert each offered a $2,000 (total $8,000) reward for information leading to the finding the perpetrators, who spray-painted swastika symbols between midnight and 5 a.m. past Thursday morning at the Congregation B'Nai Israel 45 Twombley Avenue in Staten Island's Bay Terrace.

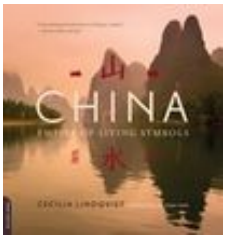
Art News From UK

The UK's first major exhibition of work from acclaimed media artist
Masaki Fujihata will feature eight of his interactive installations
created between 1996 - 2008. A new work, Unformed Symbols: Another Side has been created for
this exhibition. Exhibition continues until Sun 19 October. http://www.cornerhouse.org/masakifujihata Masaki Fujihata will be at Cornerhouse on Sat 23 August for an Artist Talk, Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford St, Manchester M1 5NH, UK

Da Capo Press: All Eyes Are On China



The Great Wall: The Extraordinary Story of China's Wonder of the World by John Man published by Da Capo Press August 8th, to coincide with the start of the Beijing Olympics.
Every year, hundreds of thousands of tourists take the five mile journey from Beijing to climb the Great Wall's battlements. In *The Great Wall* John Man explores the history, design and importance of the Great Wall. He finds a fascinating and unique way into the complex and spectacular history of China. John takes reader from the China's past, through the war with the Mongols, to the modern days, when the Great Wall is a powerful emblem of China.
China's wonder of the world is on the minds of people of all countries, yet few knows its true story. Author of this title John Man is a historian and travel writer on Chinese history and culture...



China: Empire of Living Symbols by Cecilia Lindqvist (translated by Joan Tate) first published by Da Capo Press and available for the first time in paperback in time for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.
When Cecilia Lindqvist first set to write *China: Empire of Living Symbols*, she discovered that many traditional explanations had become obsolete because of archaeological finds in recent decades. It is the first book to comprehensively discuss the excavated discoveries. This unique title deals with a small percentage of the characters included in the most extensive dictionaries. Author reveals that present-day characters express the same perception of reality as the original forms of the characters did over 3,000 years ago.
Previous out of print, hardcover copies of *China: Empire of Living Symbols* have become collector's items, ranging

from hundreds to thousands of dollars on Amazon.com. Now this title available first time in paperback.

Moscow: Medvedev: "Aggressor Has Been Punished..."

Medvedev announced on national television that the military had punished Georgia enough for its attack on South Ossetia. Georgia launched an offensive late Thursday to regain control over the separatist Georgian province, which has close ties to Russia.

"The security of our peacekeepers and civilians has been restored," Medvedev said. "The aggressor has been punished and suffered very significant losses. Its military has been disorganized."

The Russian president said that he ordered the military to defend itself and quell any signs of Georgian resistance. "If there are any emerging hotbeds of resistance or any aggressive actions, you should take steps to destroy them," he said at a televised Kremlin meeting...

Georgia

The crisis over a breakaway province, South Ossetia, appeared to ebb as Georgian troops began retreating and honoring a cease-fire, a claim Russia disputed. Moscow was only broadening its retaliation against Georgia for trying to take control of the region.

Russia on Sunday expanded its bombing blitz in areas of Georgia not central to the fighting.

Vice President Dick Cheney spoke Sunday afternoon with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili. McBride said that the vice president expressed the United States' solidarity with the Georgian people and their democratically elected government in the face of this threat to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Cheney told Saakashvili that Russian aggression must not go unanswered, and that its continuation would have serious consequences for its relations with the United States, as well as the broader international community, McBride said.

More than 2,000 people had been killed in South Ossetia since Friday. The figure could not be confirmed independently.

Commission for an Art Work – United States

An American government organization is making a call to professional artists who live in Maine to submit proposals to design, execute and install artwork at the Bangor Courthouse. Total project budget is $90,000. The committee is seeking proposals that will fit with the atmosphere and environment of the building's function. Typology is visual and plastic arts.

Black Dog Publishing: Informal Architecture

Recently published book *Informal Architecture: Space and Contemporary Culture* by Anthony Kiendl mobilises several streams of thoughts in contemporary culture post -9/11.

The artists in this unique title visualise economies of both lack and excess, proposing alternative strategies and criteria for its representation, creation and inhabitation of space.

Informal Architecture indicates that modernity is still the dominant operative in Western culture, and its culture and architecture can be understood, by example, through the work of artists such as D. Graham, where "strategies of shifting works between traditional categorical boundaries are key to understanding the psycho-social effects of system and structures..." This fully illustrated with color and black-and-white artwork and photographs remarkable volume published by Black Dog Publishing in UK, in 2008.

Inflation: 100-billion-dollar note

Zimbabwe has introduced a new 100-billion-dollar bank note.

The new note will go into circulation on July 21/08.

In January, a 10-million-dollar note was issued, then a 50-million-dollar note in April. In May, notes for 100 million and 250 million dollars were issued, swiftly followed by those for five billion, 25 billion and 50 billion.

The southern African nation has been ravaged by hyperinflation which shot up from 165,000 percent in February to 2.2 million in June.
Independent economists believe the official inflation figure is grossly understated, estimating it could be running between 10 million and 15 million %.
Zimbabwe's chronic economic crisis has left at least 80% of the population living below the poverty threshold and mass shortages of basic goods in shops.

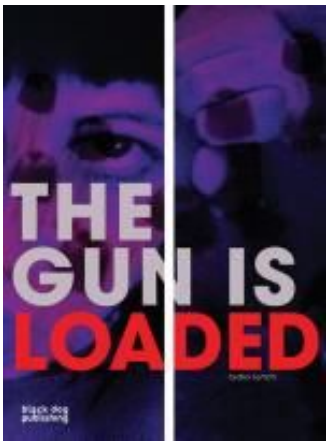
PHH: I'd Never Willingly Do You Harm

Peter Hay Halpert Fine Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *I'd Never Willingly Do You Harm,* an exhibition of 23 photographs by 18 international artists. The show will open on Thursday, 17 July & close on Friday, 22 August. A reception for the artists will be held on Thursday, 17 July from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Art exhibition *I'd Never Willingly Do You Harm* features new photographs by young & emerging artists from Italy, Sweden, Switzerland & the U.S.:
Kristian Bengtsson, Linus Bill, Andrea Castro, Frode och Marcus, Ye Rin Mok, Michelle Cortez, Roberto De Luna, Thobias Fäldt, Nicholas Haggard, Todd Jordan, Jenny Källman, Carlotta Manaigo, Skye Parrott, Daniel Karlsson, Ola Rindal, Fredrik Skogkvist, Mathias Sterner, Peter Sutherland.
Each of the photographs is a unique piece, none of the works are being issued in editions.
The exhibition is curated by Tony Cederteg. He is the publisher & owner of Cederteg Publishing, founded 2006, which focuses on visual art, photography & fashion. Cederteg is also an independent curator, based in Stockholm, Sweden. His recent curatorial work includes shows in Reggio Emilia, Milan, & Stockholm, & this exhibition in PHH Gallery in New York City. Tony is the host of the nationally-televised Swedish fashion show Streetsmart & the distribution manager for Livraison Magazine. He has been called a "Swedish entrepreneur, curator, model, actor, & one-man-band."
Cederteg said that: "Basically I just wanted to show some great artists that I've worked with through my publishing house and within my curating for shows and ****. As simple as that. These peeps makes me very happy. They're all very productive and easy to worship. I care for them greatly and I truly hope the very best for them." Tony Cederteg sees this exhibition as a "declaration of love. I wanted pure emotions. I asked each of the artists to photograph something or someone that's very dear to them, something that they don't want to hurt or harm, and that brings out the best in them." The photographs range from landscapes to to portraits. Some of the photographs were made expressly for this exhibition.
The exhibition is accompanied by a limited edition catalogue. The 500 copies are available through the gallery, for sale at American Apparel, & are also being distributed worldwide.
Peter Hay Halpert Fine Art is located at 511 West 25th Street, Suite 306, New York, NY. Summer gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM. For more information, or to schedule a viewing please contact the gallery at phh@phhfineart.com

July, 2008

Black Dog Publishing: The Gun Is Loaded



Lynda Lunch's uncompromising work has defined categorisation & been under-represented in mainstream media. Book *The Gun Is Loaded* demonstrates Lynda's continued position at the forefront of underground America's culture. This fully illustrated & fabulous title contains photomontages from Ecstasy At The Mouth Of The Abyss; Lynda's collaboration with Marc Viaplana, The Scene Of The Crime Could Be Anywhere... At Any Time; her installation You Are Nor Safe In Your Own Home, & her portrait series. All that above accompanied by narratives, lyrics, prose & poetry...

"Man has turned the world into a ghetto, a whorehouse
An orphanage, a refugee camp, a sweatshop, a slaughterhouse
A bombe factory, a landmine, a butcher shop, a shooting gallery
An insane asylum, a gas chamber, a toxic fu**ing dump..."

The Gun Is Loaded is a wonderful journey into the vision of the one of U.S.'s most pioneering, provocative & fearless women...
Featuring an introduction by Jack Sargeant, this book is a fascinating collection of the archival documents. *The Gun Is Louded* first published by Black Dog Publishing in 2008 in London, U.K.

I Will Always Love America

During 2008, the year of monumental change, the Denver Film Society & Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the Denver 2008 Convention Host Committee, invite you to share your definition of democracy. By giving you an outlet for your voice - www.cinemocracy.org, they hope to come closer to a definition of democracy. Submit your film up to five minutes in length answering the question "How do you define democracy?"

The top 10 videos will be screened publicly during the week of the 2008 Democratic National Convention. The winning film will be screened as part of the official program of the 31st Starz Denver Film Festival.

Samsung Experience: July 2008

Samsung Experience invites you Monday, July 28th, 7pm - 9pm. It is MobileMonday. Originally founded in Finland in 2000, MobileMonday is a global mobile community that has spread around the world through a largely grassroots effort. For more information, visit www.mobilemonday-ny.com
Join Samsung Experience for an evening of great music featuring Dave Kellan & Brent Grunow & The Bandits Tuesday, July 29th, 7pm - 9pm. It is
New Music Tuesdays series. For more information you can visit
www.myspace.com/davekellanmusic
www.myspace.com/brentgrunow
The Samsung Experience is an interactive space showcasing Samsung's vision of digital convergence, & located at Time Warner Center, The Shops at Columbus Circle, 10 Columbus Circle, 3rd floor, 8th Ave between 58th & 60th Street, New York, USA.

Milan Fashion Week: 2009 - D&G

After last season's Highland fling, Domenico Dolce & Stefano Gabbana returned to sea level with a spring D&G collection inspired by the French Riviera. They didn't have any old beach bum in mind, rather a 21-century version of Cary Grant in *To Catch a Thief*. The Grant élan could be felt in the tailoring & in the polka dot neckerchiefs that were tied loosely under the jackets. The 21-century part came in via the sheen of the fabrics: silk cotton, silk jersey, silk twill, silk everything...
The D&G version of an espadrille, meanwhile, had a rope sole but jettisoned canvas for patent crocodile. The best looks here had the ease & freshness that distinguished the Dolce & Gabbana show a few days earlier.
The designers' pursuit of the white-&-navy motif turned as relentless as the Timbaland remix of Madonna's "4 Minutes" that played on the soundtrack. It was with the too-literal nautical flag prints that introduced a splash of red. These read as much Nantucket as Nice, though the model in the navy Speedo & deep-V polo soon reminded the audience that the D&G man has no intention of joining Daddy's yacht club. If this collection wasn't as jam-packed with hits as Fall's, it still bobbed along with likeable energy...

TASCHEN: Richard Meier

Richard Meier & Partners: Complete Works 1963-2008 by Philip Jodidio first published by TASCHEN in 2008.
This fabulous title presents the great American architect Richard Meier' career to date. Meier has crossed the straits of fame, lashed to the mainmast of Architecture by the "popes of reason, honesty and beauty."
He is a builder of his time, an American architect who has triumphed in Europe. When asked if his use of white geometric forms might not be considered a symbolic victory over nature Richard Meier says: "No." R. Meier thinks that it is the statement of what they do as architects. He thinks the fallacy that Frank Lloyd Wright perpetrated for many years had to do with the nature of materials. The materials they are using in construction are not natural, they do not change with the seasons. It is a counterpoint to nature. Meier thinks it should help intensify one's perception of the changing colors of nature, of the day, rather than attempt to have the architecture change.
Richard Meier has imposed a style that is almost invariably driven by precisely calculated proportions & grid. His buildings are symphonic arrangement of geometric volumes: Getty Center, Jubilee Church in Rome, Museum for the Decorative Arts in Frankfurt (Germany), Madison Square Garden in NYC (USA), Royal Dutch Paper Mils Headquarters in Hilversum (The Netherlands), Museum of television & Radio in Beverly Hills (USA), Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona (Spain)...
Fully illustrated, this fascinating upscale book contains deep & detailed information about Meier's career in English,

German & French. This exceptional deluxe volume created in collaboration between R. Meier, author, & the graphic designer Massimo Vignelli. It is the spectacular monograph & brilliant display of Meier's work in unprecedented size. Also this book featured a preface by the noted Spanish architect A.C. Baera.

News Archives. May-June, 2008
News Archives. March-April, 2008
News Archives. January-February, 2008
News Archives. December, 2007
News Archives, October-November, 2007
News Archives. August-September, 2007
News Archives. June-July, 2007...
News Archives. May-April, 2007...

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